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16 November 1963

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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Common Market: (West Germany now appears to be taking a relatively favorable attitude toward resolving the Bonn-Paris dispute over grain prices in the Common Market.)

(This is suggested by initial German reaction to the proposals recently put forward by Mansholt. These proposals would, in one step, lift the support-price level in France, reduce it in West Germany, and compensate the West German farmer with direct income subsidies.)

(EEC President Hallstein has advised Erhard that Mansholt's plan offers a major opportunity to advance European unity, and has warned him that Bonn is certain to be outvoted on the price issue in 1966 when the EEC's majority voting rule becomes applicable. Hallstein views it as a "considerable step forward" that Erhard instructed the Foreign Ministry to examine the plan carefully. He is hopeful the Socialists can be persuaded not to exploit the problem in the 1965 elections.)

(Preliminary comments from working-level officials in Bonn on the Mansholt formula have been favorable. One Foreign Ministry official has predicted Bonn would not "flatly oppose" the plan.)

(Despite this cautiously positive attitude in official circles, West German farm interests can be expected to continue to press Erhard not to accept the Mansholt plan as now drafted. On the other hand, the chancellor will almost surely be prodded by De Gaulle during his 21-22 November visit to Paris for an early agreement on grain prices.)

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DAILY BRIEF

*Argentina: President Illia fulfilled last night his election pledge to annul Argentina's petroleum contracts with the United States and other foreign firms.

Illia's decrees apply to all contracts signed since 1 May 1958, the day ex-President Frondizi took office. Frondizi actually began in July 1958 his oil policy of contracting private firms for such activity as drilling, exploration, services and production. The 1 May date highlights the government's claim that the Frondizi regime used illegal procedures in drafting and signing the contracts.

The decrees also order the State Oil Company to put representatives in charge of all private contract activity and call for the treasury secretary to report on the oil problem. The report presumably would include analysis of the bases for compensating the private companies.

Illia has stated in the past that the companies would receive a fair court hearing and any compensation due. He considers some of the contracts better than others and reportedly favors renegotiation of some of them.

Illia will probably issue further decrees to spell out specific procedures.

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NOTES

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South Korea: (The Pak regime is using police pressures to a considerably greater extent in its campaign for the 26 November National Assembly elections than it did in the presidential election last month.

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[redacted] the regime does not intend to falsify the actual vote tallies, although some rigging of this kind may be done by local officials who have been threatened with loss of their jobs if the government does not win in their districts. Violence could flare up during the last days of the campaign if police election activity becomes too blatant.)

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DAILY BRIEF

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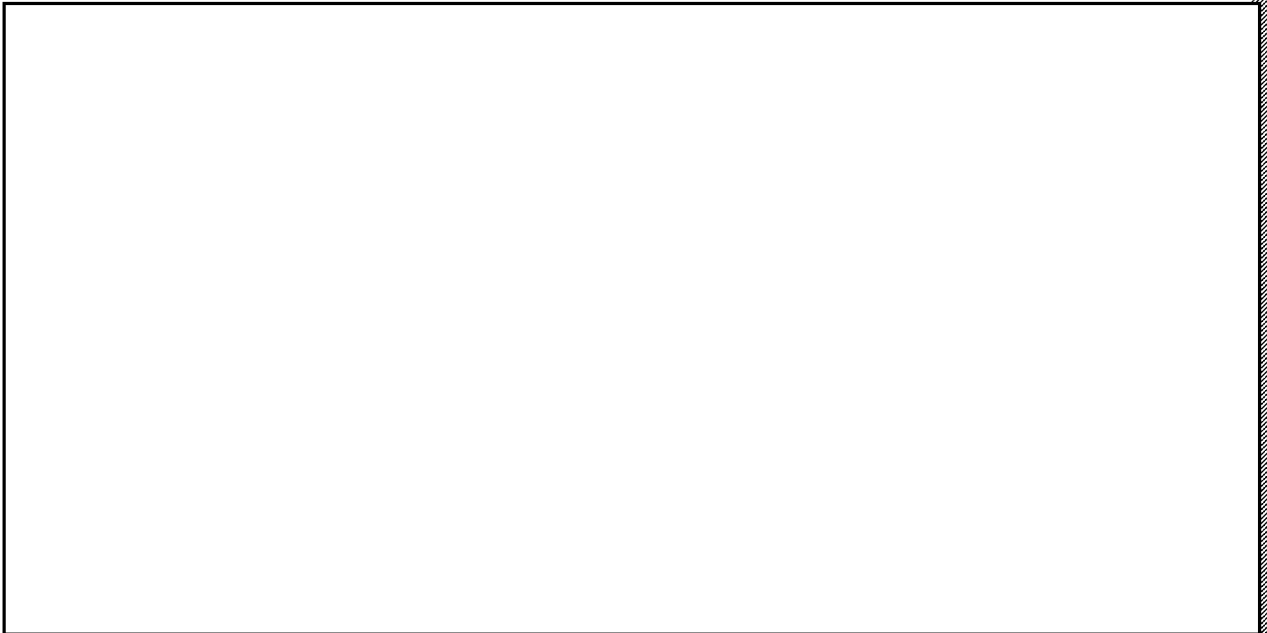
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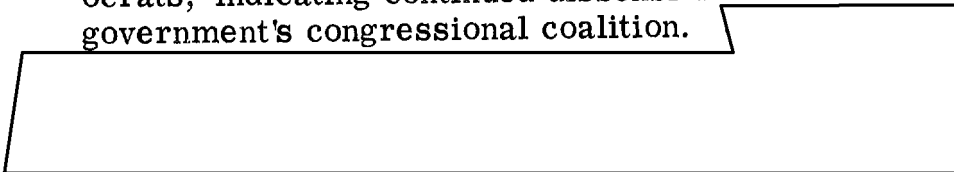
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Brazil: The Brazilian Senate, rather than the Chamber of Deputies, has for the first time exercised its constitutional prerogative to convoke an extraordinary session of Congress. This move is interpreted largely as a precautionary measure to prevent President Goulart from taking some action to expand his power--such as declaring a state of siege--during a period when the legislature normally would be adjourned. The largest vote for the special session--set for 16 December to 8 March--came from Goulart's nominal allies, the Social Democrats, indicating continued dissension within the government's congressional coalition.

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NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE ESTIMATE

(The United States Intelligence Board, on 15 November 1963, approved the following national intelligence estimate:

SNIE 85-3-63: "Effects of Hurricane Flora on
Cuba"

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DAILY BRIEF

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